

Floyd County Youth Services Bureau  
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## **New Directions**

The New Directions program was established in 1985 by the Floyd County Prosecutor's Office. In 1993, the program merged with the Floyd County Youth Services Bureau. The program was initially funded by a grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Currently, the 1503 Youth Services Bureau grant funds this program, along with donations and smaller grants from local community resources.

The New Directions program works hand-in-hand with the local school system to provide prevention and early intervention programming to youth and their families. The program provides individual help to identified youth in developing personal strengths and resources to minimize their risk of becoming involved with juvenile delinquency. Youth are in grades 1-8, and are enrolled in the New Albany/Floyd County school system. New Directions serves approximately one hundred and twenty (120) youth during a typical year. Programming consists of role-playing, presentations, guest speakers, videos, discussions, arts and crafts and other various activities. Topics of programming include: anger management, conflict resolution, communication, self-esteem, abuse, decision making, drugs and alcohol, and peer relations.

New Directions has recently added a literacy component. Each child receives a copy of a book chosen by staff that pertains to the topics covered in programming. Time is spent at the end of every session reading and when the book is completed, the child gets to take it home.